

**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated September 19, 2005, has been carefully considered. Claims 1-6 and 11 are pending. Claims 23-28 have been added to further define the protection to which Applicant is entitled. Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the above amendments and the following remarks, and pass the application to allowance.

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION:**

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102:**

Claims 1, 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Muser, U.S. Patent No. 4,783,099.

Claim 1 as amended recites a pipe coupling comprising: an elongated housing comprising a first end and a second end, the housing defining an elongated bore therein; a stop located on an inner diameter of the housing, the stop located between the first end and the second ends of the housing, wherein a distance from the stop to one of the first and second ends is at least two times a distance from the stop to the other of the first and second end of the housing; a first cylindrical bore extending from the first end to the stop; and a second cylindrical bore extending from the second end to the stop, wherein an angle between the first cylindrical bore and the second cylindrical bore is about 15 degrees to about 165 degrees, and wherein each of the cylindrical bores are configured to allow a pipe end to advance into the pipe coupling until reaching the stop.

Claim 11 as amended recites a pipe coupling consisting of: an elongated housing comprising a first end and a second end, the housing defining an elongated bore therein; a stop located on an inner diameter of the housing, the stop located between the first end and the second ends of the housing, wherein a distance from the stop to one of the first and second ends is at least two times a distance from the stop to the other of the first and second end of the housing; a first cylindrical bore extending from the first end to the stop; and a second cylindrical bore extending from the second end to the stop, wherein the angle between the first cylindrical bore and the second cylindrical bore is about 15 degrees to about 165 degrees, and wherein

each of the cylindrical bores are configured to allow a pipe end to advance into the pipe coupling until reaching the stop.

Muser relates to a conduit system for the flow of a fluid medium therethrough wherein the system is made up of a plurality of elongated conduit segments connected by means of fittings, such as straight connectors, elbows, T's or the like. As shown in FIG. 3, the "90 degree elbow fitting 13 with a conduit segment 11 inserted in one end thereof. This fitting differs somewhat from the straight connector depicted in FIG. 2, in that the fitting is provided with enlarged ends 40 separated by a slightly reduced body portion 41. A radially extending circumferential inner flange 42 forms the base of a socket, the walls of which are defined by the inner surface of the enlarged end 40, to snugly receive the end of a conduit segment 11.

Muser however does not teach or suggest a pipe coupling wherein each of the cylindrical bores are configured to allow a pipe end to advance into the pipe coupling until reaching the stop. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 11 should be allowable. Claim 4 is dependent from Claim 1 and should be allowable for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brodie, U.S. Patent No. 4,810,008.

Brodie relates to a lawn sprinkler fitting including a unitary tubular coupling having opposite annular ends, at least one intermediate annular corrugated section having a plurality of folds and stop rings defining annular bearing surfaces formed at each of the opposite ends to limit the extent of overlap of the annular end with pipes engaged in abutment against the annular bearing surface. (Emphasis added.)

Brodie does not teach or suggest a tubular structure having a stop, wherein each of the cylindrical bores are configured to allow a pipe end to advance into the pipe coupling until reaching the stop. Rather, the fitting disclosed in Brodie includes at least two stops, i.e., one on each end of the opposite ends of the tubular structure to limit the extent of overlap. Accordingly, since Brodie does not teach or suggest a pipe coupling wherein each of the cylindrical bores are configured to allow a pipe end to advance into the pipe coupling until reaching the stop, Claims should be allowable. Claims 2-6 are dependent from Claim 1 and should also be allowable.

New Claims 23-28:

New Claim 23 recites a pipe coupling comprising: an elongated housing comprising a first end and a second end, the housing defining an elongated bore therein; a single stop located on an inner diameter of the housing, the stop located between the first end and the second ends of the housing, wherein a distance from the stop to one of the first and second ends is at least two times a distance from the stop to the other of the first and second end of the housing; a first cylindrical bore extending from the first end to the stop; and a second cylindrical bore extending from the second end to the stop, wherein an angle between the first cylindrical bore and the second cylindrical bore is about 15 degrees to about 165 degrees. (Emphasis added). Claims 24-28 are dependent from Claim 23.

As set forth above, none of the cited references teach or suggest a pipe coupling, which comprises an elongated housing comprising a first end and a second end, the housing defining an elongated bore therein; and a single stop located on an inner diameter of the housing. Accordingly, Claims 23-28 should be allowable.

**CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are presently in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is requested. If, however, any matters remain that can be clarified by the Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the number below. In the event that there are any questions concerning the amendments or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned so that prosecution may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL, L.L.P.

Date: December 13, 2005

By: 

Kirk M. Nuzum

Registration No. 38,983

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(650) 622-2300